

FY08 SOMERVILLE BUDGET HEARINGS

Veteran Services

Frank P. Senesi, Director



2. VETERANS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

1. In FY07, the Veteran Services Department continued to provide prompt and caring service to Somerville's needy veterans and their dependents. Success is seen in the number of veterans who are served.
 - In this past year, the Department enrolled more than 110 veterans in the VA Health Care System by assisting them with their applications and follow-up with the VA.
 - Over 115 veterans were provided assistance with filing claims for compensation and/or pension with Veterans Affairs, including follow-up and occasional court appeals.
 - The Department also assisted grieving families by helping to plan funeral arrangements and by providing financial assistance when needed.

3. VETERANS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

2. In addition to the daily efforts to support veterans, the Memorial Day Parade was enlarged, more than doubling in size and participation. At the third annual fundraiser, we plan to raise even more than the \$14,000.00 raised last year in donations, which were deposited into the revolving fund to help defray the cost of the parade. This money also helped in the restoration of monuments and memorials throughout the city.



4. VETERANS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

3. Also, in FY07, the Department held 17 street dedications for veterans. Elected officials, local veterans' organizations, and family and friends of the honored veteran are invited to each of these ceremonies.



Above, Carey Square.



Right, Cuff Square dedication ceremony.

5. VETERANS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

4. The Air Force Band Concert was held on Saturday September 30, 2006 at Somerville High School Auditorium. With over a 50-piece orchestra, many attended and enjoyed the concert. There is another concert scheduled with the US Navy Band for Wednesday November 7, 2007.

*Air Force Band
rehearsing →*



6. VETERANS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

5. Last fall, both members of the Veteran Services Department, along with other veteran service agents across the state, successfully lobbied on the State House to get the additional benefits added to the “Welcome Home Bill” . This legislation provided many more benefits to veterans and their dependents. The original bill was signed into law on November 11, 2005 with the additional benefits signed into law on November 11, 2006.

*Veteran's Day
Celebration,
Dilboy Post. →*



7. VETERANS – FY08 Goals

1. In FY08, the Department will continue its efforts by providing prompt and caring service to Somerville's needy veterans and their dependents. As many veterans as possible will be enrolled in the VA Health Care System and the Department will provide assistance to veterans filing claims for compensation or pension with Veterans Affairs. When a veteran passes away, the Department will work closely with their families to provide financial assistance when necessary.

8. VETERANS – FY08 Goals

2. In addition, the revolving fund, which was started in FY05 in order to help defray the cost of the Memorial Day Parade and monument and memorial restoration, will continue to expand.



MAYOR JOSEPH A. CURTATONE & THE OFFICE OF
VETERAN SERVICES PROUDLY PRESENT OUR

**3RD ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ON
SATURDAY MARCH 31, 2007 AT 2:00 P.M.
SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
81 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE

PERFORMANCES BY:

COMEDIAN JIMMY TINGLE
BOVA PRODUCTIONS CABARET SHOWS
THE U.S.O. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK PATRIOTIC REVUE



**FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
SOMERVILLE VETERANS' SERVICES
(617) 625-6600, x4700
or THE MAYOR'S OFFICE (617) 625-6600, x2100**

DONATION \$20.00 per person



9. VETERANS – FY08 Goals

3. As stated for FY07, the Vietnam Memorial and the World War I Memorial will be moved to Central Hill. This is in the final planning stages. This will allow individuals to pay tribute to veterans at all of the city's memorials in one central location along Central Hill.

*Rededication of
the Vietnam War
Memorial on the
City Hall
Concourse →*



10. ACE Service Project

ACE Service Project: Accurate, Courteous, Easy Service from your City government.

“The mission of this project is to respond accurately and efficiently to constituent needs, while treating each customer with courtesy and respect, and constantly improving the ease of doing business with city government.” ~Mayor Joseph Curtatone, 2007 Midterm Address

Veteran’s Services strives to meet the ACE goals by:

- Providing support and benefits to Somerville’s needy veterans. (ongoing)
- Providing residents with opportunities for civic pride and community celebration, such as the Memorial Day Parade and the Air Force Band Concerts. (ongoing)
- Keeping up the monuments and memorials around the City. (ongoing)